

WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and
workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 10, 2006

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH ARE HONORED

Earlier this year, several officers from the Fourth District – Alan Herring, Hilary Dossen, James Ellis, Thomas Martin, Matthew Morris and Jimmy Perrin – responded to the 900 block of Buchanan Street, NW, for the report of a burglary in progress. Officers Perrin, Dossen, Morris and Martin went to the rear of the location, where they found an open door. Officer Herring joined Officer Ellis, who had been flagged down by a witness at the corner of 9th and Buchanan Street. The witness informed them that approximately three male suspects entered the residence, armed with handguns, and demanded money. As Officers Herring and Ellis interviewed the witness, Officer Perrin saw one of the suspects in the residence. When the officers announced their presence, the suspects fled the location through the front door. Officers Perrin and Martin gave chase, while Officer Morris stayed with the victims until they were safely evacuated. Two of the suspects fled in unknown directions, while the third suspect fled east toward 9th Street on foot. As the suspect approached the officers at the corner of 9th and Buchanan Streets, NW, Officer Herring saw that the suspect was carrying what appeared to be a dark shiny object. Officers ordered the suspect to drop his gun several times, but the suspect did not comply and continued to flee. After a brief foot pursuit, the suspect was apprehended in the rear of the 4000 block of 9th Street, NW, where he attempted to climb a fence. A .38 caliber handgun containing four rounds was recovered at that location. The witnesses positively identified the suspect as one of the subjects who entered the residence, pointed handguns at them, and demanded money. For their quick and coordinated response in handling a very dangerous situation, the six officers were recognized at the monthly CHAMPS Awards luncheon for March. A total of 14 officers citywide were honored.

① Read about all of their outstanding actions at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,559492,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The March awards luncheon was hosted by the Capital Hilton in Northwest.

① The Seventh District Citizens Advisory Council is holding an awards ceremony and banquet on Thursday, May 18, 2006, at the Bolling Air Force Base Officers Club. Individuals interested in nominating a 7D officer or community member for an award, or in attending the event, should contact Lendia Johnson at (202) 698-1454.

MPDC EXCEEDS GOAL FOR USING SMALL, LOCAL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES IN DC

The MPDC used Local, Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in DC at a rate more than double the Department's goal for fiscal year 2005, MPDC officials testified this week before the DC Council. Representing the MPDC before two Council committees looking into various DC government agencies' LSDBE spending, Commander Joseph Griffith, deputy director of the MPDC's Corporate Support Command, outlined the Department's LSDBE goals and spending over the past year. The MPDC's LSDBE goal for FY05 was just over \$3.7 million, but the Department's actual LSDBE contract awards totaled more than \$8.9 million. In other words, the Department's financial commitment to LSDBE vendors totaled 237 percent of its LSDBE budget for FY05. "While our Department has met — and exceeded — our LSDBE goals for each of the last several fiscal years, our performance during FY05 was especially strong," Griffith said. He said the MPDC's performance in this area is particularly noteworthy, when one considers that for many of the products and services the Department regularly procures — including ammunition, safety vests and other specialized equipment — there are no LSDBE vendors to compete. Griffith explained the MPDC's strong commitment to the LSDBE program: "We support LSDBE so strongly because this program makes sense. LSDBE promotes economic development and job creation in our city. And as a Police Department, we are keenly aware of the connection between economic development and public safety. The stronger our economy is, the safer our streets can become — and remain," he told the committees.

① The District's LSDBE program is operated by the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development. For details, go to:
http://olbd.dc.govhttp://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547557,mpdcNav_GID,1553,mpdcNav_|.asp

THREE MEN CHARGED WITH MURDER FOLLOWING SHOOTING, POLICE PURSUIT IN SE

Three DC men were arrested and charged with murder earlier this week following a shooting in Southeast DC and a nearly 40-minute police pursuit that spanned both DC and Prince George's County. Chief Ramsey praised the work of responding officers and said the case illustrates when police pursuits are appropriate under the MPDC's "restricted pursuit" policy. The incident began at about 12 noon, on Tuesday, March 7, when MPDC officers on patrol in the area responded to the 3000 block of Q Street, SE, to investigate the sound of gunfire. Upon arrival, they discovered 31-year-old Michael Beckham, of Capitol Heights, Maryland, suffering from fatal gunshot wounds. Mr. Beckham had been one of three occupants of a Ford Thunderbird that allegedly was fired on by at least one occupant of a gray-colored Chevy Tahoe. Shortly after the shooting, Sixth District officers began pursuing the Tahoe, which was also occupied by three subjects, as it sped away from the scene. The pursuit went into Prince George's County and then back into DC. Along the way, it was joined by personnel from the Prince George's County Police Department; helicopter units from both Prince George's County and the MPDC also assisted. During the pursuit, Prince George's County Police recovered a Mac-10 assault-style weapon that was reportedly thrown from the Tahoe. The vehicle was eventually stopped in the 3300 block of Nash Street, SE, and three suspects were taken into custody; all three were later charged with Murder One While Armed. There were no injuries or property damage associated with the pursuit. In commending the work of the officers involved in the case, Chief Ramsey said the pursuit was appropriate because the potential benefits of continuing the pursuit — apprehending heavily armed suspects who had just committed a brazen homicide — outweighed the risks inherent in the pursuit. Last year, the MPDC came under criticism from some who charged the Department had a blanket "no chase" rule. The Chief said that has never been an accurate characterization of the Department's policy, which restricts pursuits to situations such as Tuesday's incident.

- ① Read the full news release on the pursuit and arrests at:
<http://app.mpdcc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=345000>
- ② The MPDC is stepping up efforts to close unsolved homicides. View a collection of flyers on unsolved murders by going to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,541992,mpdcNav_GID,1533.asp

NEWS & NOTES

Suspects Sought in Northwest Taxi Cab Robberies. MPDC detectives are investigating seven robberies or attempted robberies of taxi cab drivers that occurred within the Fourth Police District between March 3 and March 8, 2006. Anyone with information about these cases is asked to call police at (202) 727-9099. The MPDC currently offers a reward of up to \$5,000 to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any robbery committed in the District of Columbia. Details on these seven recent crimes are at app.mpdcc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=346000.

Race To Benefit Safe Shores. The Third Annual National Race to Stop the Silence: Stop Child Sexual Abuse will be held at 8:30 am, on Saturday, April 15. The local beneficiary of this event is Safe Shores, The DC Children's Advocacy Center, a direct service, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping child victims of sexual and physical abuse in DC. Safe Shores coordinates the work of medical and mental health providers, social services professionals, victim advocates, and law enforcement and prosecution officials to reduce trauma and promote healing for child victims of abuse. Details at www.stopcsa.org/race.cfm.

Civilian Job Vacancies. The MPDC continues to accept applications for some civilian career opportunities. Get complete information on current vacancies, including qualifications, salaries, and application deadlines and procedures, by visiting mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp.

Senior Citizens Warned About New Medicare Scam. DC Attorney General Robert Spagnoletti this week warned senior citizens and people with disabilities to beware of phone scammers looking to bilk them out of hundreds of dollars in a new Medicare scam. Telephone scammers are scamming Medicare beneficiaries for money and checking account information to "help them enroll" in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. Whenever you have a question or concern about any activity regarding Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE. If you suspect you have been a victim of the scam, report it to the MPDC by calling the non-emergency number, 3-1-1, or by calling the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services at 1-877-772-3379).

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 3/10/06
◆ 2006: 32	
◆ 2005: 29	
◆ % Change: +10.3%	
◆ Closure Rate: 50.0% (16 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 3/4/06
◆ Total: 1,015	
◆ Weapons: 29	
◆ Robbery: 9	
◆ Auto Theft: 17	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 40	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 3/4/06
◆ Arrests: 66	
◆ Curfew Violators: 58	
◆ Truants: 80	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 3/8/06
◆ March: 47	
◆ 2006 Total: 493	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 3/10/06
◆ 2006: 9	
◆ 2005: 10	
◆ % Change: -10.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crime-reports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov